



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/287,478	04/06/1999	CHRISTIAN STIG RODE	RCI001V1	6350

7590 12/15/2003

RODE CONSULTING INC
2412 STEARNS HILL ROAD
WALTHAM, MA 02451

EXAMINER

PHAN, THAI Q

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2123

DATE MAILED: 12/15/2003

15

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

2

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/287,478

Applicant(s)
Christian Rode

Examiner
Thai Phan

Art Unit
2128



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Sept. 29, 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is in response to applicant's amendment filed on Sept. 29, 2003.

Claim 14 is newly added. Claims 1-14 are pending in this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Huben et al., patent no. 5,950,201, ('201) herein, in view of Jenkins, Jimmy, US patent no. 6,401,114 B1.

As per claim 1, Van Huben (201) discloses method and system for computerized design automization using inter-networking (e.g. World Wide Web) for transmitting design or simulation data very similar to the claimed invention (Abstract, "Summary of the Invention"). According to Van Huben, the design simulation and verification method includes steps of creating a transmission network including clients, servers, etc., wherein network clients carrying unique identifier such as addressing, account number, etc. (Col. 18, lines 20-25, col. 23, lines 17-49, as example), transmitting structure design data, accepting data from at least one client (col. 9,

line 41 to col. 10, line 20), merging form data with other data including template data for concurrent processing, processing merged data for output, simulating functional design with merged data using user interactive window program, and transmitting design simulation data to client as claimed (col. 6, lines 54-67, col. 9, line 53 to col. 11, line 55, col. 16, line 33 to col. 18, line 64, col. 20, line 27 to col. 22, line 65, cols. 33, 44-45, 51, 85-88). Van-Huben does not expressly disclose a unique identifier in client web browser as claimed. Such feature is however well-known in a computer network, especially in the internet application. In fact, Jenkins teaches a computer network to provide user or client with program applications to perform an user's task. The network transmits a unique identifier to identify user logging onto the network server (col. 3, lines 1-34) for user interface (cols. 3-5).

This would motivate practitioner in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine cookies in network browser as taught in Jenkins into user network interface of Van Huben in order to identify user when logging into the network server.

As per claim 2, Van Huben also required some of steps in claim 1 being repeated for design changes or for a new design.

As per claim 3, Jenkins teaches various user interface implemented in different operating system, wherein such implemented user interface including web browsers.

As per claims 4-6, Jenkins teaches a unique identifier such as web cookies to identify user logging onto the network server (col. 3, lines 1-34) for user interface (cols. 3-5). The user unique identification is generated from a server for user to gain access to the network. Van Huben (5,950,201) also discloses checksum verification to validate user authorization or

authority level access (cols. 23 and 24). User's identifier is randomly generated with high fidelity or with high reliable probability due to special code generation for network secure and transaction, for example.

As per claim 7, Van Huben discloses such claimed limitations as in design database (cols. 23-24). Jenkins also teaches method for managing and distributing resource in a computer web for circuit design and simulation with feature limitations as claimed (col. 1, line 55 to col. 2, line 10, col. 2, lines 59 to col. 3, line 17, col. 5). Van Huben ('201) also teaches circuit simulation resources for management include simulation databases for storing users' simulation files, user's simulation records or files (col. 6, line 35 to col. 8, line 16) usually stored with record identification for accessing and retrieving simulation records to update current simulation, records associated with executable design database which would typically include unique identification for database set, design record (database) update to current for later use, etc. as claimed (cols. 12-15).

As per claim 8, Van Huben (201) discloses process prioritized for scheduling and distributing resources for performing CAD server design tools in multiprocessing environment (col. 5, lines 12-21, lines 58-64, col. 6, lines 5-26).

As per claim 9, Van Huben (201) discloses transmitting design data to clients which would include form structure data, accepting the structure data and topology data for circuit design, simulating the design data, and synthesizing the design according to design data flow. Jenkins teaches options to store design files on network sever (Figs. 5-7, col. 3, line 19 to col. 5, line 66).

As per claim 10, due to the similarities of claim 10 to claim 1, and Van Huben (201) discloses methods and systems for computerized design automization using inter-networking (e.g. World Wide Web) for transmitting design or simulation data very similar to the claimed invention (Abstract, "Summary of the Invention"). According to Van Huben, the design simulation and verification method includes steps:

creating a transmission network including clients, servers, etc., wherein network clients carrying unique identifier such as addressing, account number, etc. (Col. 18, lines 20-25, col. 23, lines 17-49, as example),

transmitting structure design data, accepting data from at least one client (col. 9, line 41 to col. 10, line 20), merging form data with other data including template data for concurrent processing, processing merged data for output, simulating functional design with merged data using user interactive window program, and

transmitting design simulation data to client as claimed (col. 6, lines 54-67, col. 9, line 53 to col. 11, line 55, col. 16, line 33 to col. 18, line 64, col. 20, line 27 to col. 22, line 65, cols. 33, 44-45, 51, 85-88). Van-Huben does not expressly disclose a unique identifier in client web browser as claimed. Such feature is however well-known in a computer network, especially in the internet application. In fact, Jenkins teaches a computer network to provide user or client with program applications to perform an user's task. The network transmits a unique identifier to identify user logging onto the network server (col. 3, lines 1-34) for user interface (cols. 3-5).

This would motivate practitioner in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine cookies in network browser as taught in Jenkins into user network interface of Van Huben in order to identify user when logging into the network server.

As per claim 11, Van Huben ('201) discloses privilege mode and mode selection for user over simulation network.

As per claim 12, Van Huben (201) discloses the user client in a network of workstations and web browser. Each user client station carries a unique identification may be saved in client's browser (col. 9, "Platform") in order to identify user workstation for tracking, security, and other purposes to improve network quality. Van Huben teaches user web browser to access, retrieve, and perform user's work such simulation of circuit, verification of user design, etc. over a distributed CAD design system over a computer network (Figs. 3-10, 19, 20, cols. 10-20, 44-50).

As per claim 13, Jenkins discloses user form data together with user unique identification number are logged for performing user task such as for circuit simulation or debugging purpose (Figs. 4, 5, cols. 3-5). Jenkins also teaches local or remote databases (Fig. 5), and mechanisms to get file in different data formats such as graphical, textual files, parameter files in computer file through user interface web browser cookies which inherently includes HTTP, for example, in order to initiate simulation, billing tasks, etc. over a computer network (Figs. 3-5).

As per claim 14, Jenkins teaches web based browser including web cookies with the features as claimed (such as creating and transmitting web cookies to users such that user can access to the network as claimed).

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-14 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

1. US patent application no. 2002/0198966 A1 to Jenkins, Jimmy (Dec. 2002)

2. US patent no. 6,134,592, issued to Montulli, Lou, on Oct. 2000

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Thai Phan whose telephone number is (703) 305-3812.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703)305-3900.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306 (for formal communications intended for entry)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive,
Arlington. VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

December 8, 2003

Thai Phan
Patent Examiner
Thai Phan
AU: 2123